Helping to End Addiction Long-term

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National Crisis of Pain and Opioid Misuse, Addiction, and Overdose

In 2017, 70,237 Americans died from drug overdose

• 50 million adults are affected by chronic pain
• 20 million have high impact chronic pain
The Response: NIH HEAL Initiative

- Mission: scientific solutions to the opioid crisis
- $500M/year Trans-NIH effort
  - Over $945M obligated in FY2019
  - 400+ awards, through 40+ funding announcements, across 41 states
- 12 NIH Institute and Centers currently leading 26 HEAL research programs
  - Over 20 collaborating Institutes, Centers and Offices
  - From prevention, basic and translational research, clinical trials, to implementation science
Problem:
Many people with OUD do not receive appropriate treatment for their disorder

• **Scientific solution:** Test integration of evidence-based interventions into community, justice and ER settings
  - The HEALing Communities Study
  - Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN)
  - Research focused on treatment in ER, primary care, among pregnant mothers.
  Etc.
Problem:
Many patients who receive medications for OUD do not stay on treatment long enough to achieve long-term recovery

- **Scientific solution**: Research targeting new therapeutics for OUD to give patients more options for sustained recovery
  - Immunotherapies to opioids
  - Extended-release formulations
  - Medications to reduce drug cravings
Problem: Pain control should be balanced with the risks of long-term opioid therapy

- **Scientific solution:** Research on non-addictive medications for pain and test new models of care in real world settings
  - Phase 2 trials of novel therapeutics for multiple different pain conditions
  - Controlled trial of acupuncture for chronic low back pain in older adults, in collaboration with CMS
  - Effectiveness research studies for an array of nonpharmacological pain management strategies
Problem:
There is no national standard for care of infants born exposed to opioids

• **Scientific solution:** Research to understand best treatments and long-term consequences for NAS/NOWS
  - Trials to inform screening and treatment for infants exposed to opioids
  - Long-term studies to understand pre- and post-natal opioid exposure on brain growth and development
Cross-cutting HEAL themes

• Engagement of research participants, patients, and stakeholders

• Sharing and open access of data
  o HEAL Public Access and Data Sharing Policy
    ▪ Publications and underlying primary data, immediately and broadly available to the public
  o Harmonized measures established by HEAL teams

• Trans-NIH governance structure
Coming soon in 2020

• HEAL Investigators Meeting
• Workshops to focus future research
• New funding opportunities in gap areas
  o Prevention strategies for respiratory depression/overdose
  o Interplay of pain, addiction, and mental health conditions
  o Diverse populations
• Data management platform
  o Secure platform for data from a wide variety of basic, preclinical, and clinical research programs in HEAL